

Dear People of Connecticut,

There are three types of towing at sea: First is commercial towing, second is the tow of a stricken vessel, both of which need not be addressed by this bill. The third, recreational towing is what this bill is all about. Currently Connecticut law regards recreational towing as "water skiing". Nowadays recreational towing is more than water skiing and includes tubing, wake boarding and other recreational towing activities. Often sailing instructors and their staff are engaged in the towing of children in Optimists and frostbiters in their dingys. A tow boat with a motor and a propeller is just as dangerous when near people in the water regardless of what form of recreational objects are being towed.

It is vital that the spotter, driver and tow are all aware of their responsibilities. Vigilant visual awareness and constant communication is vital to safety. Turning the motor off when near a person in the water is mandatory to avoid Emily's situation. As Mr. Fedorko says "Stop it 4 Emily".

A recreational tow boat with a 200 horse power motor is more than a handful for most certified boaters. Hands on training should be considered when dealing with a modern powerful motor while recreational towing. The size of the motor and the experience of the driver must be taken into account for safe operation at all times. Even a small motor on a staff boat is just as dangerous when near people in the water. This bill, "Emily's Law" can only help make the waters of Connecticut safer and more enjoyable for all of us.

Please join me in giving our full support to SB 699 "Emily's Law".

Thank you,

Safe Boating is No Accident

W.J.Ian Macmillan
State Harbor Master
Greenwich
Connecticut